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SUBJECT: BEHIND THE (GEORGIA) CONFLICT, A FIGHT FOR OIL

Liberal Folha de S. Paulo's correspondent Gilles Lapouge comments (08/27): "...The combat is clear: the Americans and Europeans try to ignore Russia and Iran by opening new ways for the oil to flow, over which Russia has no control. But Moscow intends to maintain and resume the administration of Russian and Asian gas and oil to Europe. In the confrontation between the West and Russia, Georgia is in a strategic position, which on one hand explains Western efforts for the countries in the Caucasus to make them a part of its economic-military devices... And, inversely, the risks assumed by the Kremlin to defeat Georgia and attract it to Russia's sphere of influence as well as the two Georgian separatist pro-Russian provinces of Abkazia and South Ossetia. A difficult game of chess has started. It is necessary to say however that the Russian player managed to block the Western player (the U.S. and EU). Unless in the meeting called by Sarkozy a great idea comes forth."
White